

as shy as fish usually are. He (Dr. Warwick) thought this a most remarkable instance of gratitude in a fish for a benefit received; and, as it always came at his whistle, it proved also what he had previously, with other naturalists, disbelieved, that fishes are sensible to sound.

Dr. Warwick next related an anecdote illustrative of extraordinary instinct in the elephant "*Chunee*," which was shot some years ago at Exeter Change, London, in consequence of his having gone mad. This animal would pick up a shilling from the ground with its trunk, and place it in the waistcoat pocket of the person who intentionally dropped it. Upon one occasion Dr. Warwick dropped a shilling purposely out of the animal's reach, and waited the result with some curiosity. The elephant appeared to consider for some time, and then raising its proboscis to nearly a horizontal position, blew violently against the opposite wall; the reverberation of the wind was so forcible that it blew the coin over; and the elephant repeated its blowing until it had got the shilling within its reach; it then picked it up as usual, and deposited it in the doctor's waistcoat pocket.

The President, Dr. Booth, also related an anecdote of this same "*Chunee*." When the first symptoms of madness were evinced, and it was thought necessary to poison him, a strong dose of mineral poison was inserted into an orange and given to the elephant. The animal was fond of oranges, and immediately swallowed it; but the dose was not strong enough—it merely made him sick. It was attempted to give a still stronger dose in the same manner, but the animal would not take it, and would never again swallow an orange without first crushing it on the ground, as if to smell its contents.—*Proc. of the Lit. and Phil. Soc. of Liverpool*, Nov. iv. p. 76.

#### BRACHYCLADIUM.

King's Cliffe, Dec. 14, 1848.

As the generic name *Brachycladium*, 'Ann. of Nat. Hist.' series 2, vol. ii. p. 382, is pre-occupied, I beg to substitute for it *Brachycarphium*.—M. J. B.

#### PREVENTION OF BUGS.

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

Dec. 18, 1848.

GENTLEMEN,—In the Magazine for the last two months are letters on the prevention of the bed-bug (*Cimex lectularius*).

I have used Sir William Burnett's Disinfecting Fluid, the solution of the chloride of zinc; it was applied by means of a feather to all the joints and crevices in the bedstead and with complete success. The solution entering the wood rendered it an unfit, and probably a poisonous habitation for the *Cimex*.

The prevention of these animals is of more importance than some may at first suppose it to be; in some severe diseases, the disturbance